



SWAN RIVER STATE FOREST
34925 MT HWY 83
SWAN LAKE MONTANA 59911



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
CONSERVATION
SWAN RIVER STATE FOREST

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Updates on alternatives.
- Open house in Condon or Swan Lake during week of April 7 through 11.
- On-site field trip of the project area during the week of June 16 through 20.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should be available for public review during the summer of 2008. A 30-day comment period will follow.

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Purpose of Newsletter	1
Where Are We Now?	2
Opportunities for Public Input	2
Contact Information	2
Project Development	3
Alternatives	3-9
Request for Information	10
Updated Project Time Line	11

Newsletter - White Porcupine

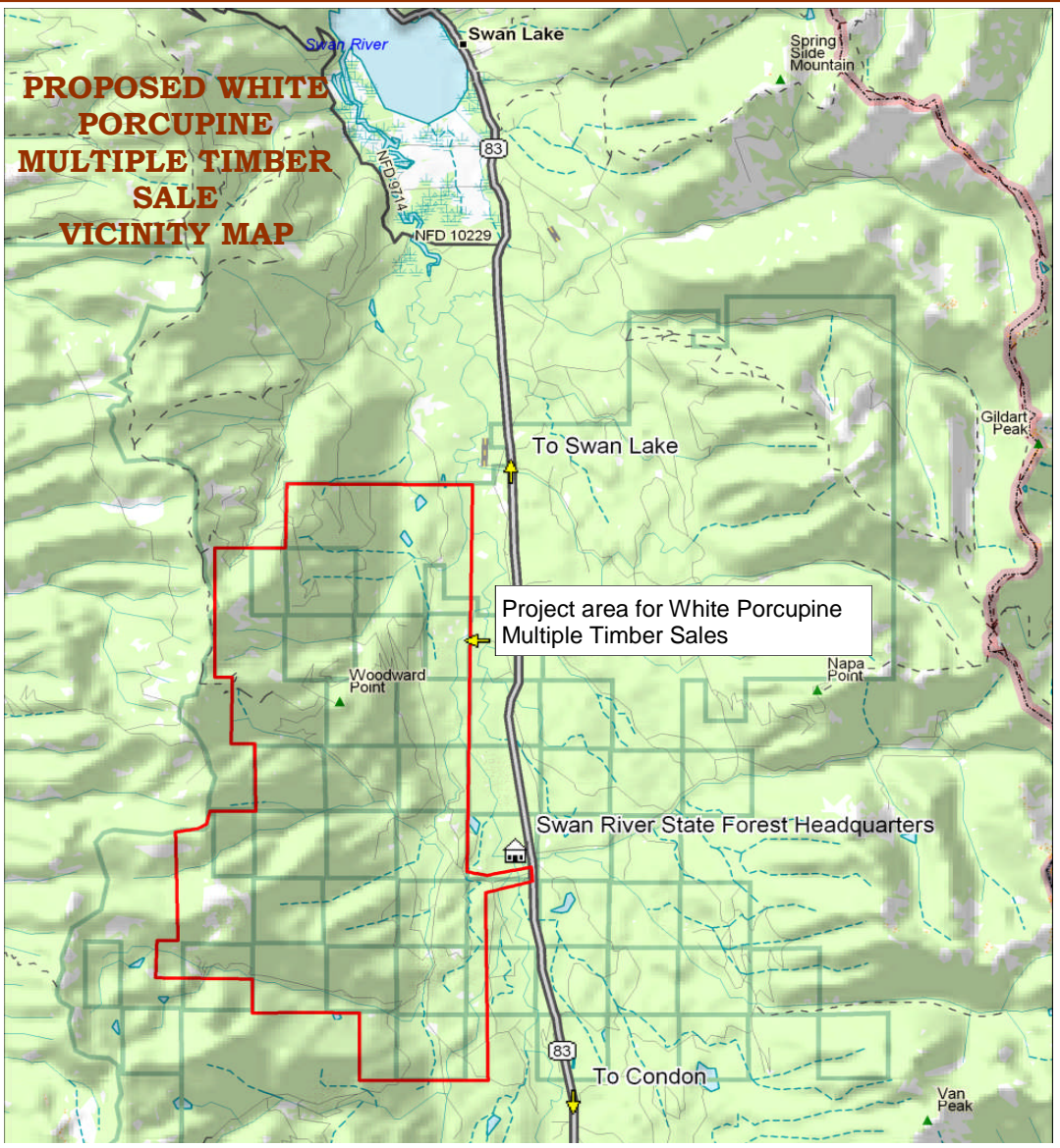
Multiple Timber Sale Projects

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 3, 2008

Purpose of Newsletter

- Update you on the project development; see *Project Development*, page 3.
- Summarize the alternatives that were developed by the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team); see *Project Development, Alternatives*, page 3.
- Provide further opportunities for comments on the project and inform you of public meetings and on-site field tours of the proposed project area; see *Opportunities for Public Input*, page 2.



Where Are We Now?

The ID Team will continue to perform analyses and begin the process of producing a DEIS. The purpose of producing the document is to provide as much information as possible about the potential impacts of the proposal and better quantify the cumulative effects for the project's decisionmaker, Dan Roberson. This will enable him to make an informed decision on which alternative would best address the objectives for this project.

Opportunities For Public Input

The ID Team will strive to provide the public ample opportunity to comment during the development stages of this project. If you wish to participate, consider the following opportunities:

- If you did not comment during the initial scoping period and have issues or concerns regarding the White Porcupine Multiple Timber Sale Project, direct your comments to Kristen in *Contact Information*.

- If you would like future mailings regarding this project and have not previously requested to be placed on our mailing list, contact Kristen with your name, mailing address, and a request to be included.

- The ID Team and the decisionmaker will host an open house in Condon or Swan Lake during the week of April 7 through 11. Once a firm time, location, and date have been established, we will invite you to attend.

- The ID Team and the decisionmaker will host an on-site field trip of the project area during the week of June 16 through 20.

If you wish to attend either of these, please contact Kristen with your preferred location and time (open house), and dates. Once firm dates have been established, you will receive an invitation via e-mail or telephone. Please contact Kristen with your phone number or e-mail address.

Contact Information

Kristen Baker
Forest Management Supervisor

Swan River State Forest
34925 MT Hwy 83
Swan Lake, Montana 59911

406-754-2301

kbaker@mt.gov

Updated Project Timeline

The dates below display the updated White Porcupine Multiple Timber Sale Project Time Line. Although the ID Team has specified particular times and methods for public input, input is not limited to these times; comments will be accepted throughout the development of the project.

Public Scoping	May 31 through June 30, 2007
ID Team Development	June 2007
Issue Development	Summer/Fall 2007 (and ongoing)
Public Field Tour	September 10, 2007
Alternative Development	Fall/Winter 2007
Newsletter 1	December 2007
Analysis	Winter/Spring 2008 (and ongoing)
Newsletter 2	March 2008
Open House	April 2008
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Internal Review	April/May 2008
Public Field Tour	June 2008
DEIS Public Review	July 2008
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	October 2008
Record of Decision	November 2008





Request for Information

The environmental document and summary for The White Porcupine Multiple Timber Sale Project should be ready for review during the summer of 2008. While we would like to make these documents available to everyone, the cost of publishing is expensive. Copies will be available to read at the Swan River State Forest office. Another option would be to share a copy with a neighbor or friend.

If you would like a copy of this environmental document or its summary, please let us know by May 1, 2008 by checking the appropriate item below:

_____ Send me a copy of the environmental document.

_____ Send me a copy of the summary.

_____ Let me know when the documents are available.

_____ Remove my name from the mailing list.

name

address

city, state, zip

Please send this form to: Swan River State Forest, 34925 MT Hwy 83, Swan Lake, Montana 59911 or call this information to Wanemah at 406-754-2301.



Project Development

Project Objectives

As stated in the scoping notice and first newsletter, the White Porcupine Multiple Timber Sale Project objectives are to:

- Promote biodiversity by moving forest stands towards historic covertime conditions and species composition.
- Improve forest health and productivity by addressing insect and disease issues.
- Generate revenue to the Common School trust for funding kindergarten through grade 12 public education and benefit local economies.
- Contribute sufficient volume toward DNRC's annual sustainable yield while incorporating important ecological commitments.
- Develop and improve the transportation system and infrastructure for long-term management, fire suppression, and public access.
- Reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards by decreasing ground and ladder fuel loads.
- Improve water quality by removing and rehabilitating sediment point sources, and meet Montana Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all project roads, including haul routes to Highway 83.

Alternatives

Each alternative must comply with the State Forest Land Management Plan and Administrative Rules for Forest Management. Each alternative, including No-Action Alternative A, must be a viable option for the decisionmaker. After carefully reviewing the concerns and issues that were received during the scoping of the project and the September 10, 2007 public field tour, the ID Team developed 4 alternatives. Each description highlights the major differences between the alternatives.

No-Action Alternative A

Timber harvesting and other activities associated with the proposed project would not occur.

The objectives of this project are to promote biodiversity, improve forest health, generate revenue for the school trust, contribute volume toward DNRC's annual sustainable yield, develop and improve the transportation system, reduce fuel loads and wildfire hazards, and improve water quality.





The objectives of this alternative are to manage insect and disease issues, disperse potential effects to fisheries habitat, and water quality and quantity, mitigate for wildlife connectivity, and prioritize infrastructure and fire-suppression needs.

This alternative would harvest approximately 22.5 MMbf on an estimated 1,657 acres.



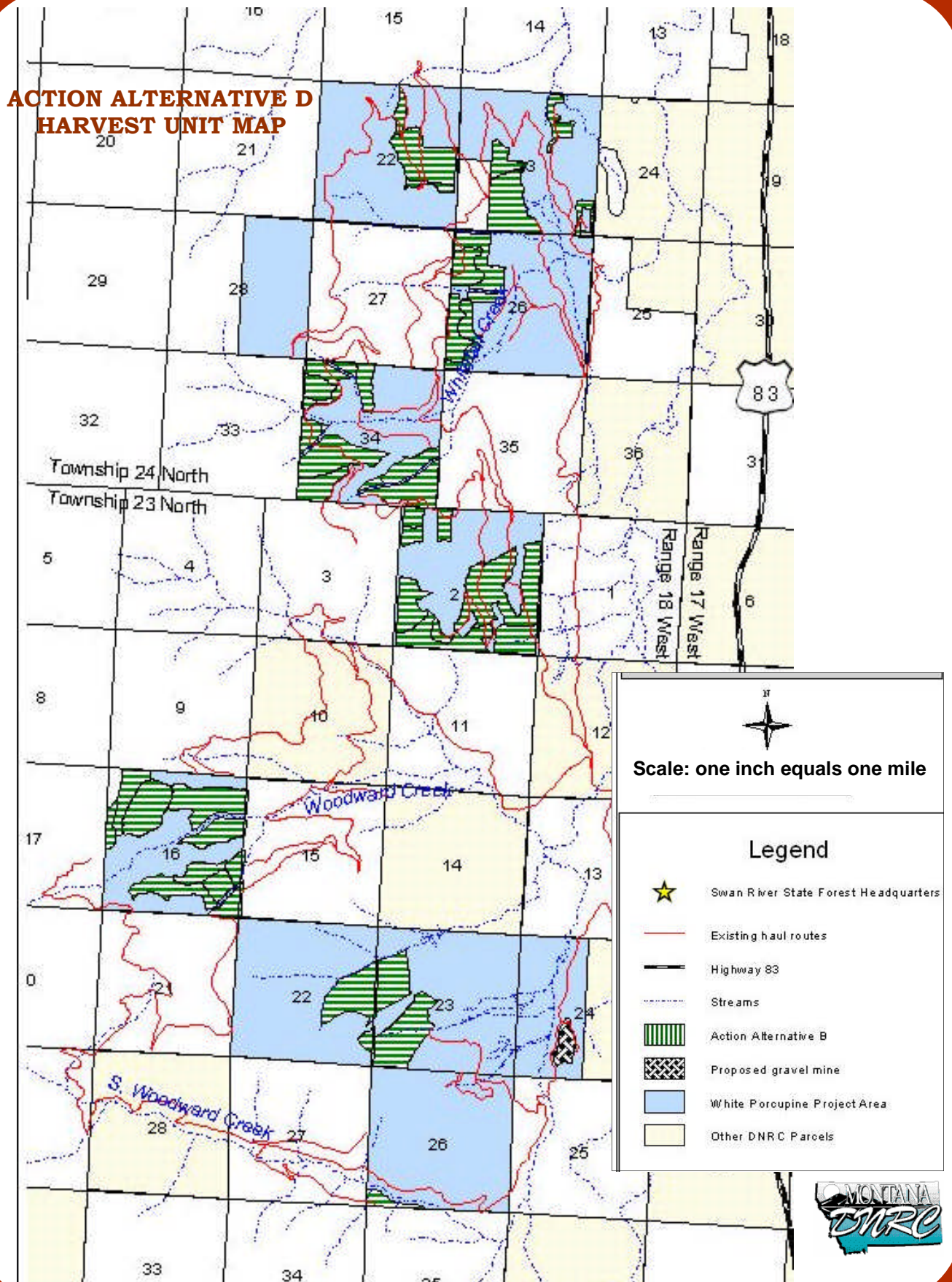
Action Alternative B

DNRC would spread management activities and potential environmental effects over a broad geographic area that encompasses portions of 11 sections on Swan River State Forest.

Under this action alternative, DNRC would be expected to:

- Prioritize management and treatment of the most severe insect and disease issues within the project area.
- Disperse potential effects to water quality, water quantity, and fisheries habitat over a broad area that includes Whitetail Creek, Woodward Creek, and South Woodward Creek watersheds.
- Present more options in mitigating for wildlife connectivity.
- Prioritize long-term infrastructure and fire-suppression needs by focusing on road construction and road improvement throughout the project area.
- Harvest approximately 22.5 million board feet (MMbf) over an estimated 1,657 acres. The proposed stands highlighted on the attached map may change as project development continues.

ACTION ALTERNATIVE D HARVEST UNIT MAP





The objectives of this alternative are to manage and treat insect and disease issues, maintain old-growth patches in the Whitetail drainage, minimize effects to covertsypes, and address sediment sources.

This alternative would harvest approximately 15.5 MMbf on an estimated 1,554 acres.



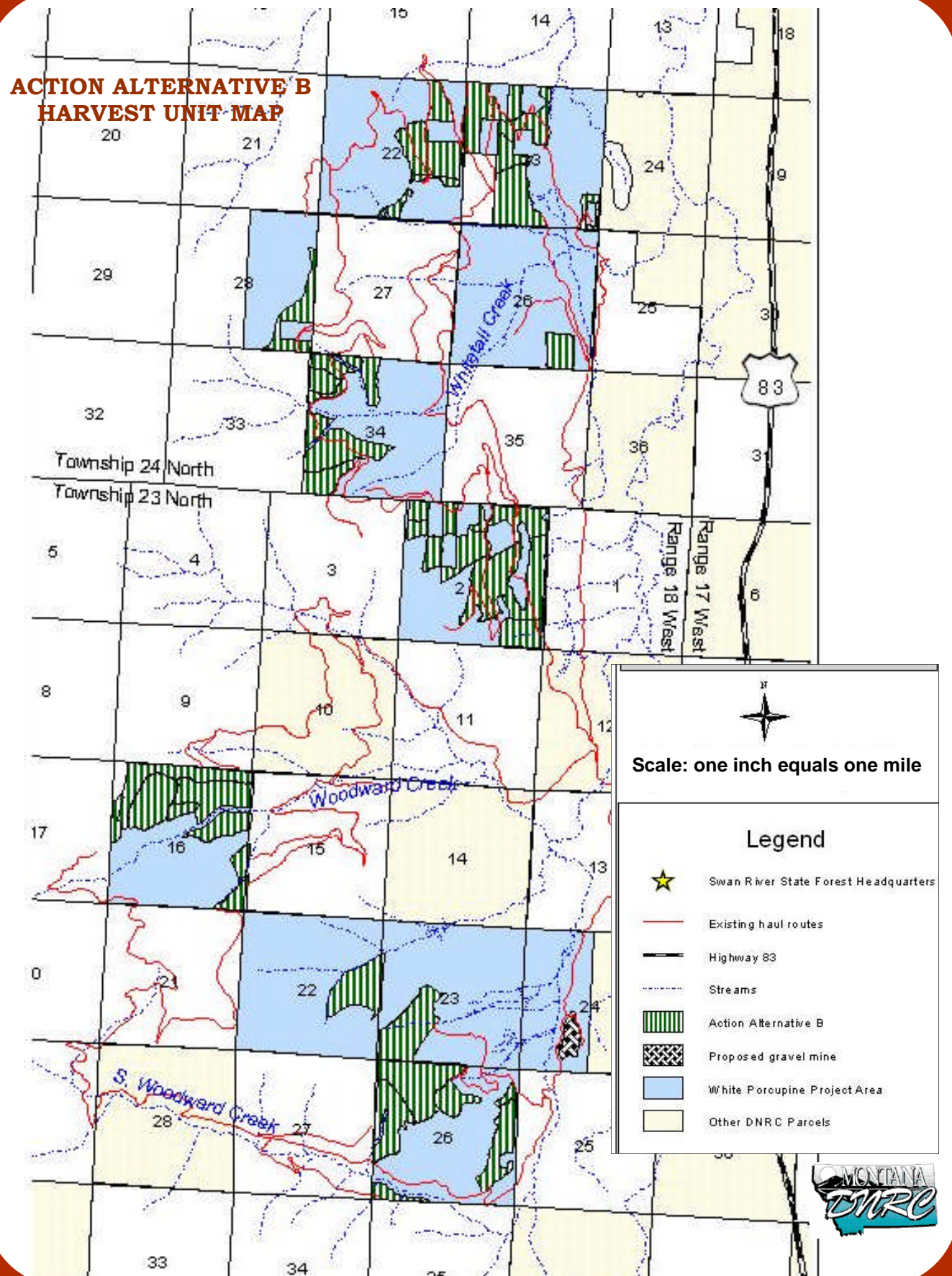
Action Alternative D

Management activities would attempt to address project objectives while limiting the harvesting of old growth over a broad geographic area that encompasses portions of 10 sections on Swan River State Forest.

Under this action alternative, DNRC would be expected to:

- Manage and treat a minor portion of the insect and disease issues within the project area while minimizing the effects to old-growth stand types and associated wildlife species.
- Maintain the old-growth patch size in the Whitetail drainage within the project area.
- Minimize effects to less common covertsypes or covertsypes at the edge of their range (e.g. western hemlock).
- Address infrastructure, haul route BMPs, and point-source sediment needs within the project area.
- Harvest approximately 15.5 MMbf on an estimated 1,554 acres. The proposed stands highlighted on the attached map may change as project development continues.

ACTION ALTERNATIVE B HARVEST UNIT MAP





The objectives of this alternative are to treat insect and disease issues, confine effects to water to a single watershed, and minimize habitat fragmentation, viewshed alteration, and road construction/transportation costs.

This alternative would harvest approximately 24.0 MMbf on an estimated 1,565 acres.



Action Alternative C

Management activities and potential environmental effects would be concentrated over a smaller geographic area that encompasses portions of 7 sections on Swan River State Forest.

Under this action alternative, DNRC would be expected to:

- Provide intensive, site-specific treatments of insects and diseases and allow for maintenance treatment of additional stands.
- Confine potential effects to water quality, water quantity, and fisheries habitat to one watershed, Whitetail Creek.
- Minimize potential habitat fragmentation by managing for larger patch sizes.
- Isolate viewshed alteration to one area.
- Minimize road construction and transportation costs for purchasers, which could potentially lead to higher bid prices.
- Harvest approximately 24.0 MMbf on an estimated 1,565 acres. The proposed stands highlighted on the attached map may change as project development continues.

ACTION ALTERNATIVE C HARVEST UNIT MAP

